

Applicant Name Seeley Lake – Missoula County Water District
Project Name Seeley Lake Water System Improvements

Project Abstract

The Seeley Lake Water District water system is currently grossly inadequate to either provide for an acceptable level of fire protection to the community or maintain adequate pressures during high water demands. The inability to suppress a fire poses a substantial risk of loss, not only to physical structures within the community but also to the national forest resources surrounding and identifying this resort community. Estimated available fire flows to the community are as low as 200 gallons per minute (gpm) in many areas of the system with both commercial structures and schools, where the available fire flows should be in excess of 1,500 gpm. A major fire event resulting from the inability to suppress even a minor structure fire would prove catastrophic to the community both environmentally and economically, as this community relies on the natural forest and water resources for its commercial and recreational livelihood.

The proposed project will include a new 500,000-gallon water storage tank, a new high service pump station, replacement of approximately 12,000 feet of small diameter transmission main, approximately 3,000 feet of new distribution system mains, and modifications to the disinfection process to facilitate compliance with the Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Product Rule.

System improvements will provide for adequate system pressures and fire flows for existing customers, provide for expansion of the customer base, and allow more efficient and maximum use of available surface water. The project will provide both an expanded benefit and also enhance the existing benefit through development of the infrastructure necessary to effectively manage and deliver the district's water resources. The project will further improve management of the district's water resources through new telemetry and automation equipment and additional water metering equipment to accurately account for the treated water production rates.